



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Mount Rainier National Park News Release

For immediate release

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Road to Paradise Reopens Saturday

April 27, 2007—Mount Rainier National Park's most popular road, the Nisqually Road to Paradise, will reopen May 5 after a six month closure due to flood damage. "This is the day we've been working toward since November," said Superintendent Dave Uberuaga. "Now we're ready to welcome visitors back for the busy summer season."

The gate at the Nisqually Entrance will swing open at 9:15 a.m. following comments by dignitaries including Congressman Norm Dicks. Dicks was instrumental in procuring emergency funding for flood recovery. Park staff will be on hand at flood damaged areas to describe the flood impacts and completed repairs. Volunteer crews will be at work on the Trail of the Shadows and in the Longmire Campground, and visitors are invited to stop by and lend a hand. There will be a special program about the flood and its aftermath at the Jackson Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m.

"We hope everyone who loves Mount Rainier will come up this weekend and help us celebrate," said Uberuaga.

Lodging is available in the park at the National Park Inn, and visitors can get meals at the Inn or at the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. Gateway businesses surrounding the park are also open. The following web sites offer information on lodging, food and activities surrounding the park: www.mt-rainier.com, www.visitrainier.com, and www.destinationpackwood.com.

The park received 18 inches of rain in 36 hours in early November, and roads all over the park washed out in numerous locations. Campgrounds, trails, and utilities were also hit hard. Repair work in other sections of the park will continue this summer, with SR 123 and the Carbon River Road expected to remain closed all summer.

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